



# Integrated Solid Waste Management Master Plan

## Working through the Scope Framework

co-hosted by:

**Solid Waste Services Department &  
Public Works Department**

July 23, 2009

ISWMMP Kick Off Meeting

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# Objective & Agenda

- Why are we here today?
- History of Sustainability Initiatives:
  - United Nations Environmental Accord
  - Climate Protection Plan
  - Sustainability for City Facilities
  - Zero Waste Plan
- How does the Master Plan affect these policies?
  - Why do we need a Master Plan?
  - What will the Master Plan do?
- Next Steps
- Question & Answer



# Sustainability Initiatives

- United Nations Environmental Accord
  - Resolution 20050519-044
- Climate Protection
  - Resolution 20070215-023
- Sustainability for City Facilities
  - Resolution 20071129-045
- Zero Waste
  - Resolutions 20060112-028; 20090115-050



# United Nations Environmental Accord (2005)

- Committed the City of Austin to explore policies regarding a variety of sustainability initiatives, including:
  - Energy conservation and greenhouse gas reduction
  - Waste reduction
  - Urban nature creation and protection
  - Public transportation
  - Environmental health
  - Water conservation and protection



# Climate Protection & Municipal Facilities (2007)

- Climate Protection Plan
  - Make all City of Austin facilities, fleets and operations totally carbon neutral by 2020
- Sustainability for City Facilities
  - For new structures and major renovations, develop protocols and criteria to achieve a minimum LEED Silver rating certification
  - For existing buildings, develop protocols for achieving the highest optimal levels of sustainability, including whole building operations



# Zero Waste Plan (2006 & 2009)

- Established the guiding principals for delivering solid waste services and long range solid waste planning (2006)
- Approved the Zero Waste Strategic Plan and identified 4 policy priorities to focus on during development of the Solid Waste Master Plan (2009)



The background of the slide features a photograph of the Austin skyline, including the UT Tower, with green grass in the foreground. Overlaid on the top of the image is a banner with the 'zerowaste' logo, which consists of the word 'zero' in blue and 'waste' in green, with a recycling symbol inside the 'o'. To the right of the logo, the text 'Austin's Future' is written in a large, bold, blue font, and below it, 'Solid Waste Services Department' is written in a smaller, blue font.

# zerowaste

## Austin's Future

Solid Waste Services Department

## Background

- What is Zero Waste?
- Why is Zero Waste Important?
- Framing the Discussion
- Current Policy Focus



## What is Zero Waste?

- **Zero Waste is a pragmatic and visionary goal that attempts to emulate sustainable natural cycles by reevaluating systems to:**
  - Encourage the redesign and manufacturing of products to reduce their volume and toxicity of waste and materials;
  - Recognize that one person's trash is another's treasure and all materials are resources/commodities
- **Success means diverting:**
  - 20% of materials from disposal by 2012
  - 75% by 2020
  - 90% by 2040



## Why is Zero Waste Important?

- **Landfill Capacity**

- 33 counties dispose of their waste in area landfills
- Landfills will eventually reach capacity unless we expand existing landfills, open new landfills, or drastically divert waste from landfills

- **Greenhouse Gases**

- Landfills release methane and other greenhouse gases (GHGs)
- Reducing materials to landfills, reduces GHGs

- **Green Jobs & Green Economy**

- Tourism
- Building/Industry



## **Framing the Discussion**

- **City Authority**

- Responsible for residential collection only
- Provides limited COA Department recycling collection
- Commercial and institutional entities contract waste management and recycling services
- COA has permit authority over haulers in city limits
- No jurisdictional control over private landfills

- **Regional Authority (CAPCOG & County)**

- County has permit authority over haulers in respective region
- No jurisdictional control over private landfills

- **State Authority**

- Permitting authority over landfills



## Current Policy Focus

- **Lead by example**
  - **COA facilities evaluation and baseline data**
    - Evaluate all city department waste streams and develop monitoring mechanism to track success
    - Coordinate green teams to develop and implement reduction and recycling programs
  - **Green purchasing standards**
    - Evaluate and develop comprehensive green purchasing policies for contract services as well as office supplies
  - **Green Events at City Facilities**
    - Work internally to make city sponsored events at city facilities as green as possible
    - Work with stakeholders to develop a green events policy that encourages events using city facilities and rights of way to adopt green practices





## **Current Policy Focus (continued)**

- **Commercial and Multi-family Recycling**
  - **Consider and implement proactive education and enforcement methods**
    - Continue reaching out to commercial and multi-family properties through the Waste Reduction Assistance Program (WRAP) and other outreach methods
  - **Working with stakeholders, develop and present code amendments to the Recycling Ordinance**
    - Solid Waste Advisory Subcommittee expect to convene meetings with stakeholders in Fall 2009



## **Current Policy Focus (continued)**

- **Reach out to institutions, industrial facilities, and manufacturers**
  - **Texas Product Stewardship Council**
    - Lead by local governments
    - Input received from manufacturers and various other interested organizations
    - Supports extended producer responsibility legislation
  - **Working with AISD, UT, and other institutions to improve diversion efforts**
  - **Meeting with major manufacturers in the area to discuss Zero Waste and their role in reducing waste**



## **Current Policy Focus (continued)**

- **Promote composting to remove organic material and compostables from landfills**
  - Proposed FY2010 budget includes recommendation for compost incentive program
  - Developed handout on “How to Compost”
  - Working with local stores and organizations to promote composting education programs





# Why do we need an Integrated Solid Waste Management Master Plan?



# Solid Waste Management Master Plan

- To turn our policy goals into an executable plan that is both sustainable and affordable
- Zero Waste serves as policy framework
- Implementation vs. Policy Goals
- Planning tool for:
  - Operations
  - Infrastructure
  - Developing partnerships (public, private, etc)
  - Funding



# What will the Master Plan do?





# Goals of the Master Plan

- **Use the sustainability initiatives previously mentioned as the foundation for planning**
- **Engage the community during planning**
- **Reduce environmental impacts & enhance resource conservation opportunities in waste management services**
- **Provide a 50 year business plan**



# Sustainability Initiatives

- Zero Waste Goals
- Climate Protection
- USGBC LEED Certification
- Other sustainability goals



# Community Input

- Determine the public's sentiment for:
  - Existing services
  - The need for new services and/or facilities
  - The willingness to pay for the new services and/or facilities



# Reduce environmental impacts & enhance conservation

- Operational requirements
- Analyze local and regional growth impact
- Evaluate carbon footprint against baseline
- Sustainable facility design  
(USGBC LEED Certification)
- Evaluate facility requirements



# The 50 year Business Plan

- Capital Improvement Program
  - Recommended facilities
  - Facilities implementation schedule
  - Facility locations
  - Facility estimates
  - Facility operating costs
- Funding plan
  - Funding sources
  - Affordable project sequence
- Tools and training for continued in-house Master Plan updating



# Next Steps

- Public Input Meeting
  - Thursday, July 30, 2009
  - 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
  - Town Lake Center, Room 130
    - 721 Barton Springs Road
- Boards and Commission Meetings
  - Solid Waste Advisory Commission
  - Environmental Board
  - Sustainable Food Policy Board
  - Resource Management Board



# Question & Answer

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